



Pats Beat Panthers in Classic Super Bowl

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
 AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Glitz and glitter off the field, a sensational game on it. This may have been the best Super Bowl Sunday of them all. Adam Vinatieri kicked a 41-yard field goal with four seconds left to lift the New England Patriots to a thrilling 32-29 victory over the Carolina Panthers in the NFL's championship game.

These were supposed to be bor-

ing, defensive-minded teams, but they hardly played like it. This one felt more like a backyard game between the kids in the neighborhood, the kind in which the last team with the ball usually has the best chance to win.

"This was Ali-Frazier, man," said Patriots linebacker Mike Vrabel, recalling the classic heavyweight title fights of the 1970s. "That's how it felt out there. We hit them, they hit us. We hit them, they hit us."

After a relatively mundane start, the teams went back and forth, back and forth, scoring a total of 37 points over the final quarter. The big plays came from both likely and unlikely sources.

Vrabel, a linebacker playing offense for a play, caught a touchdown. Before that, Jake Delhomme and Muhsin Muhammad hooked up for an 85-yard pass, the



longest in Super Bowl history, to give the Panthers a brief 22-21 lead.

Vinatieri had surely been here before.

Two years ago, he kicked the game-winner with no time left in New England's 20-17 win over the St. Louis Rams to give the Patriots their first championship. By many accounts, that was the most exciting Super Bowl ever. Now, that's up for debate, something of a surprise considering these were two teams who prided themselves on defense, slug-

ging it out and a relatively humdrum style of play.

"I think each game is different," said Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, who threw three touchdowns and was named the game's Most Valuable Player. "To win this the way we did is incredible, unbelievable. A great all-around game."

Their dramatics gave the 85 million or so Americans who watched the game on TV - to say nothing of the 300 million Chinese - plenty to talk about around the watercooler on Monday.

Something more, that is, than the commercials, singers and stars that make the Super Bowl not just a game, but America's biggest unofficial holiday.

See **Super Bowl** pg. 3





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Kandahar Fire Department Tip of the Week

The KAF Fire Department has a ***NEW*** emergency phone #. Please ensure all organizations and personnel pass on the updated information.

In case of fire or emergency, contact the KAF fire department hotline at 841-1225

Submitted by TSgt Michael Hoesch, Assistant Fire Chief





Super Bowl from pg. 1

Beyonce and P. Diddy showed up and shared the stage with the two Super Bowl teams, who played in a gleaming new \$450 million stadium with a retractable roof. Janet Jackson was there, too, and CBS apologized when another star, Justin Timberlake, tore off part of her top at the end of the halftime show and exposed her breast.

Shortly after that, a streaker came to the middle of the field and delayed the start of the second half. He was leveled by New England linebacker Matt Chatham, then hogtied and arrested by Houston police.

It was strange stuff, but it would wind up as barely a blip after this game.

Surely, the TV ratings will hold up. CBS knew the Super Bowl was the gold standard of the Niensens, but when a game is as close and taut and exciting as this, the numbers get even better.

Those who watched it all saw New England win its 15th straight game, a single-season streak matched only by the 1972 Miami Dolphins, who went 17-0.

The Patriots went ahead 21-10 early in the fourth quarter and the game looked routine. But the Panthers, their offense nearly dormant for three quarters, marched down for a touchdown to pull within 21-16, missing the 2-point try that would have made it a three-point game.

After getting the ball back, Delhomme saw Muhammad streaking free down the

sideline and threw a beautiful, arcing pass that hit him in stride - six more points for a 22-21 lead with 6:53 left.

But the fun was just getting started. Brady calmly led the Patriots down for a go-ahead score, to Vrubel, the linebacker who lined up on offense, ran a short pattern and made a nice, two-handed catch with the grace of a receiver. New England made its 2-point conversion.

Carolina scored to tie it at 29, then after a short kickoff, it was Vinatieri's turn - again. He split the uprights, and more than made up for a pair of misses earlier in the game.

"It just came down to rhythm, and to win this thing and get the heck out of here," he said.

The finish and the exciting game were befitting of the party that surrounded it.

One survey showed Americans nearly double their consumption of cocktail franks during Super Bowl week, and spend \$5 million more than normal on tortilla chips.

Most of it was consumed in front of the TV, where viewers got the best look at the commercials that have become the most anticipated moments of the Super Bowl. CBS sold 30-second spots for an average of \$2.3 million.

There were ads for erectile dysfunction, one where a bear dresses up like a human and passes a hot check to buy some

Pepsi, Cedric the Entertainer accidentally getting his legs waxed, and so on.

There also was a more serious side to the game.

In a pregame interview on CBS, President Bush wished his best to U.S. troops who were watching the big game, and also paid tribute to the seven astronauts who died when the Columbia space shuttle broke apart a year ago Sunday.

Security remained a key issue, with Houston's 5,400-person police force on full staffing, part of a 25-agency effort to protect the Super Bowl city for this, the third NFL title game since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.








A Continental Airlines flight from Washington to Houston was canceled due to security concerns, although a U.S. government official said the flight cancellation was not specifically connected to the Super Bowl.

Fans waited in long lines before going through any of the 90 metal detectors stationed around the stadium. Concrete barricades stretched for blocks and a no-fly zone was imposed over a seven-mile radius.

After this game, however, there was little doubt that all the trouble was worth it.

"I was having a heart attack out there," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "It was a great spectator game."

KANDAHAR WEEKLY FORECAST

	Mon Feb 02	Tues Feb 03	Wed Feb 04	Thur Feb 05	Fri Feb 06	Sat Feb 07	Sun Feb 08
							
	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy With rain showers	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Increasing clouds	Mostly Cloudy With Showers T-Storms	Mostly Cloudy
HIGH	54	48	55	58	63	63	59
LOW	34	32	34	37	40	42	45
SUNRISE	0239	0229	0228	0227	0226	0226	0235
SUNSET	1311	1312	1313	1314	1315	1316	1317

KANDAHAR COMBAT WEATHER TEAM





World News

Explosion That Killed 8 Soldiers Probably Accident

By:STEPHEN GRAHAM, Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan - An arms dump blast that killed eight American soldiers was likely an accident, the U.S. military said Saturday, releasing the first results of an investigation into its worst ever loss of life here.

The soldiers died Thursday when a cache of mortar rounds and rifle ammunition discovered near Ghazni, about 90 miles southwest of Kabul, exploded.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty said the soldiers were preparing the weapons for disposal when one or more of them detonated.

"There was a single pop and then a much louder, much larger sympathetic detonation," he said. "Initial indications are that it probably was an accident."

The status of an eighth soldier listed as missing was changed to "presumed deceased," Hilferty said Saturday, confirming the worse loss of life for U.S. forces since they invaded in late 2001 to oust the Taliban regime for harboring Osama bin Laden.

Hilferty gave no further details on the explosion, saying the investigation was still in its early stages. He had said Friday that the military was still looking into whether the cache was set off by a booby-trap.

But in the United States, a sister of one of the dead soldiers said officers informed relatives that the troops were on a training exercise.

Penny Cockerell said she was told that her brother, Sgt. Kyle Seitsinger, a 29-year-old Army Reserve sergeant attached to the 10th Mountain Division, died when a mortar round exploded during the exercise.

"It makes it even worse that it was a training exercise. It makes it more senseless," Cockerell, a reporter who works in the Dallas bureau of The Associated Press, said in a telephone interview from her family's home in Oklahoma City.

Hilferty said several 10th Mountain soldiers were among the dead and that soldiers from other units also were killed. He declined to identify them further.

Afghan state TV broadcast a message of condolence from President Hamid Karzai to President Bush on Friday evening, calling it "another sacrifice of your soldiers for peace and stability in Afghanistan."

Ghazni provincial Gov. Haji Asadullah Khan had said Friday that a U.S. patrol happened across an arms cache dating from the struggle against Soviet occupation in the 1980s and the ammunition "went off by accident."

The deaths came at the end of a month that has underlined the danger and instability still plaguing Afghanistan two years after the Taliban's ouster.

In January alone, about 80 people have died in violence in Afghanistan, including civilians, militants, police officers, international peacekeepers and now American soldiers.

Seitsinger, a former U.S. Marine, was attending university when called to active duty Dec. 1.

"There are so many loose weapons here and the wrong guys maintain control of them in clandestine areas," he wrote in a Jan. 14 e-mail to his sister. "It's our job to find and seize them."





World News



Sfc. Curtis Mancini - Staff Sgt. James D. Mowris
Staff Sgt. Shawn M. Clemens - Sgt. Danton K. Seitsinger
Sgt. Benjamin L. Gilman - Spc. Justin A. Scott
Spc. Adam G. Kinser - Spc. Robert J. Cook

DEPARTED 29th January 2004





THE SPORTS

KAF Troops Celebrate Super Bowl Game

Story by Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan—There's always something special about Super Bowl Sunday. Like grandma's apple pie, the big game has an allure that stirs the American spirit. Troops stationed at Kandahar Air field, Afghanistan, awoke in the wee hours of the night to watch the New England Patriots battle the Carolina Panthers in what was arguably one of the most exciting Super Bowls of all time.

Huddled around TV sets throughout the base, the service members shouted and cheered for their respective teams as the game stayed close through its entirety. The Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) team hosted the ballgame and served food, drinks, and popcorn to a lively group of fans that deprived themselves of precious sleep to watch the thrilling match up.

Pfc. Melanie Vieira, a Military Police Officer with the 10th Military Police Company out of Ft. Drum, NY, came out in support of her hometown Patriots. "The Patriots are going to win," she said as the game got started with Beyonce's rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. An attractive brunette with an engaging smile, Vieira, a native of Stoughton, MA, was grateful for the break in her police duties to sit and enjoy the game. "Even though I

miss home and miss watching the game with my family and friends, I know I

have a job to do here," she stated.

Spc. Scott Norcross, a Food Service Specialist from Pigeon, MI, sat on the edge of his seat cheering for the underdog Carolina Panthers. "This really isn't so bad," he said, making reference to being away from home. "It could be a whole lot worse."

At another location known as the 'Taliban Last Stand' building, members of the 303rd Postal Company, crammed into a small office area and munched on chips and dip while taking in the game. Based in Boston, MA, the troops displayed their fierce loyalty to the New England team and were downright hostile to the two Carolina fans watching in the room with them. It was all in good sport however as the 'trash-talk' went back and forth, adding a competitive flavor to the celebration. Spc. Giselle Melo, a Post Office Attendant from Roxbury, MA, got into the action by dancing around and "high fiving" her teammates every time the Patriots made a good play. "I don't normally watch football," she said with

a mischievous grin. "I just had to come out and support my home team and be with my crew."

As the Patriots kicker blasted a 41-yard field goal through the uprights to seal the win in the final seconds of the game, the group from Massachusetts erupted in an ear shattering fit of celebratory hooping and hollering. Most of the Carolina fans, though dejected by the loss to their team, admitted that it was truly an exciting and entertaining Super Bowl Game. "It was worth every minute of the sleep we missed," said Sgt. Anthony Pawlowski, a Base Operations Sergeant with the 213th ASG Company from Allentown, PA. As the soldiers departed to get showered and dressed to begin their Monday workday and refocus on the fight against terrorism, a look of satisfaction adorned their faces. Even in this desolate place, it is good to know that they were able to enjoy a little bit of home; a little bit of celebrated American tradition.



Photo by
Spc. C. Elijah
Spencer
211th Mobile
Public Affairs
Detachment

Soldiers at Kandahar Air Field enjoy the Super Bowl at the base MWR tent.





THE SPORTS

Federer Routs Safin, Wins Australian Open

BY JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Roger Federer won his second Grand Slam title and solidified his No. 1 ranking Sunday, beating Marat Safin 7-6 (3), 6-4, 6-2 in the Australian Open.

"What a great start to the year for me, to win the Australian Open and become No. 1 in the world," the 22-year-old Swiss star said. "To fulfill my dreams, it really means very much to me."

Federer won the 2-hour, 15-minute match when Safin - who tied a Grand Slam record by playing 30 sets - hit a forehand long on championship point.

"(Safin) had to battle. He's been longer on the court than me, way longer," Federer said. "It's really nice to see him back. He's a great guy and a great player."

Federer, who clinched the top spot in the rankings with a semifinal victory over Juan Carlos Ferrero, hasn't lost a set in his two Grand Slam final appearances. He beat Mark Philippoussis in straight sets at Wimbledon last year.

Safin, in the first stage of a comeback from wrist and other injuries that limited him to 13 tournaments last year, beat top-seeded Andy Roddick in the

quarterfinals and ended Andre Agassi's 26-match Australian Open winning streak in the semifinals.

"I would like to say congratulations Roger, first of all for becoming No. 1 player and beating me today," Safin said. "It was really impressive tennis during these two weeks and well done."

"I'm actually very glad to be in finals again. I'm really glad to play my best tennis after the I had injuries last year ... I'm really sorry, I just ran out of gas today."

Federer, 4-1 against Safin, had 40 winners and 28 unforced errors against Safin's 19 winners and 41 unforced errors.

Safin twice slammed his racket into the court to vent his growing frustration.

"I was out of energy, my legs were just too tired," Safin said. "I was a little too tired to keep up with him. I felt that I was missing just a little bit. Against Roger, you have to do better than that. I'm not playing a yo-yo. He knows how to play tennis."

The Russian had 123 aces in six previous matches, including 31 against Agassi without a double-fault. But he had just three aces against Federer and five double-faults.

With the roof open at Rod Laver Arena, the match was played under mostly overcast conditions and no wind.

Part of Safin's plan was to attack Federer's second serve, and that helped him break in the third game of the opening set.

The pair traded breaks twice and got back on serve to take the first set into a tiebreaker, which Federer dominated.

Loud, booming music could be heard throughout the match from a rock concert at a nearby park. Early in the second set, chair umpire Mike Morrissey of Britain told both players that it would likely continue for the duration of the match.

At 2-2 and on serve in the second set, Safin was broken when he hit two backhands into the net. For the first time in the match he showed some emotion, yelling into a towel and then swinging wildly as if he was going to smash his racket to the court.

Two games later, an increasingly frustrated Safin succeeded in smashing his racket when he double-faulted to set up break point. Morrissey gave Safin a code violation for racket abuse, and Federer's long forehand put the game back to deuce.

Safin held with his second ace of the match.

Federer held to go up 5-3. With Safin serving to stay in the set, the Russian again double-faulted, yelling loudly to himself as he fell behind 15-30. Safin eventually fought off two set points in the game, and later in the same game lined up on the ad side of the court instead of the deuce to serve. Both players smiled at the mistake.

Safin saved another set point in the ninth game before holding on a service winner. Federer then held on his own serve to take the 40-minute second set.

Safin matched American Harold Solomon's record of 30 sets for a Grand Slam tournament set in the 1976 French Open. Solomon lost the final at Roland Garros in four sets to Adriano Panatta.

Safin was injured most of last year and did not win a match after May. His ranking slipped to 66, the first time since 1997 that he finished outside the top 50.





HEADLINERS



Student's SUV stolen while waiting to fill out police report

By The Associated Press

(1/28/04 - NEW ORLEANS, LA) — A Tulane University student's sport utility vehicle was stolen twice in three days, once while she waited for police to arrive so she could fill out a report.

"I was crying because my car was gone, but eventually I had to laugh because it was all so unbelievable," said Maggie Ardolino, a senior.

Ardolino and five friends left a restaurant on Jan. 17 and found that her 1998 Jeep Cherokee was gone. She called police to report the theft.

Three days later, a Tulane security officer called Ardolino and said her car had been found in the parking lot of a furniture store far from campus. The store's manager had notified Tulane after noticing the Jeep's parking sticker, Ardolino said.

"I thought I was pretty lucky," she said. "It was like a miracle."

Ardolino found her Jeep next to a loading dock at the store. The front end was wrecked, the interior had been ransacked and the CD player was gone.

Ardolino and her friends waited three hours for police to show up. They were frightened when they spotted two men walking in their direction, so they drove around the block.

When they returned a few minutes later, the Jeep was gone.

"It's unfortunate, and it's certainly not a scenario that happens very often," police spokesman Capt. Marlon Defillo said. "We understand the inconvenience. In this case, a double inconvenience."

Postcard addressed "On Top of a Big Hill" makes it there

By The Associated Press

(1/27/04 - ELKINS, WV) — Nothing stops the U.S. Postal Service from making its appointed rounds, not even a postcard addressed simply as "On Top of a Big Hill."

The postcard was mailed by a bookstore in Bridgeport to Helen English of Elkins, notifying her that a book she had ordered had arrived. It was addressed, "Mrs. English, On Top of a Big Hill, Elkins, W.Va. 26241."

English had mentioned to the bookstore clerk that she lived on a hill. She said the bookstore apparently did not have her address, so the clerk improvised.

"That little mail carrier, who else would do such things in the dead of winter?" English said. "They deserve a pat on the back, especially in this weather. It wouldn't happen anywhere else."

Elkins Postmaster Francis Scott said Carmen Tankersley, a rural route carrier since 1987 who serves 550 families, delivered the postcard.

"She's an outstanding carrier. Carmen's always done a good job and takes care of her customers," Scott said.

English said she started to throw the postcard away, but then, "I looked at it and said 'Gee, whiz.' I thought it was so funny. In the cold months of winter, we need a good laugh."

Baby in a hurry greets parents in bathtub

By The Associated Press

(MOORETON, ND) — *Eric Koch certainly started life off in a hurry.*

Unwilling to wait for a hospital, the fifth member of Rod and Sherry Koch's family was born Tuesday in an antique, cast-iron bathtub upstairs in their own home. Eric greeted his parents minutes before the Breckenridge, Minn., ambulance could get there, and Dad delivered him.

After waking with contractions, Sherry quietly walked downstairs unworried — she expected 12 hours of labor just as she had done for her other two children. Not Eric. Fifteen minutes after Sherry

woke him, Rod found himself on the phone with 911 dispatch, kneeling beside her as she was lying in the bathtub, about to deliver their second son.

"The 911 dispatcher said, 'Well, can you see how the baby's coming?' And I was a little flustered. I said, 'Well, it's coming out,'" Rod recalled.

Eric's head was already crowning, he said.

"I mean, this baby was really in a hurry ... It seems like once Sherry lay down in the tub, that her contractions never stopped," he said. Eric weighed in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long at birth.

Said Sherry: "I'll never look at our tub the same again."





HEADLINERS



Inmate's escape attempt puts him in really tight spot

By The Associated Press

(1/27/04 - CHARLESTON, WV) — Instead of going over the wall, an inmate at South Central Regional Jail tried to go through it _ without much luck.

Robert Anthony Hill was trapped for about four hours in a 6-inch wide, 3-foot high window after getting stuck about 1:30 p.m. Monday, said Steve Canterbury, director of the state Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority.

The 5-foot-10, 165-pound Kanawha County man had worked a metal shelf off the wall in his cell and then used the shelf to break the window at the jail in Charleston, Canterbury said.

Hill, 25, had taken off his shirt and greased his upper body with soap, Canterbury said. The inmate managed to get his head and one shoulder through before his ribs became wedged in a diagonal position.

Not only was the window too small, but even if Hill had managed to get through it, he would have had to jump from the second floor into an open field that is constantly monitored by guards and surrounded by a fence.

The inmate was freed at 4:45 p.m. Monday and taken to a local hospital. Canterbury said the inmate's injuries were not life-threatening.

"It's nothing that won't heal," Canterbury said. "Obviously, we won't be able to heal his lack of judgment, but we'll be able to heal

What could make a businesswoman tattoo United Way's logo?

By The Associated Press

(1/27/04 - LINCOLN, NE) — *Marjo Daum kept her end of the deal _ she now has the United Way emblem permanently on her left shoulder.*

The chief financial officer for United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County believes so strongly in its mission of helping nonprofit charities that during each fall fund-raising campaign she promises to do something whacky if they meet their goal.

One year, she vowed to dye her hair purple if the campaign made its goal. The money came in and Daum came to work looking like a grape snow cone.

The next year, the incentive was rainbow-colored hair. Same result. Daum looked like a rock concert groupie.

Daum, 54, first made the tattoo challenge in 1999 and 2000, but the economy went south and fund-raisers never quite hit the mark. Last fall, however, the campaign hit its \$5 million goal.

So Daum recently walked into the Hungry Eye Tattoo and Body Piercing shop and 20 minutes later had a silver dollar-sized design tattooed on her left shoulder.

As for next year's challenge, United Way resource director Rick Inbody said it's anybody's guess what Daum might consider.

"She's a relative free-spirit in a pretty restrained environment," Inbody said.

Man reports theft to cops, except for how much dope was stolen

By The Associated Press

(1/28/04 - KEY WEST, FL) — A tourist from New York called police to report that several items were stolen from his hotel room, but didn't want to tell officers just how much high quality Bahamian marijuana was taken.

The 33-year-old man, who told police he's an investment banker, filed the report early Monday morning, said Key West police. He was not charged because no marijuana was found, police spokeswoman Cynthia Edwards said Tuesday.

He also claimed \$50 and a watch were also stolen, but declined to tell police the amount or worth of the allegedly missing marijuana.

"I only want to report the watch, not the money or the weed, because I don't want to tell you how much weed there was," the man was quoted in the police report.

The man's story to police fluctuated wildly: He first said the watch was worth \$1,800, then \$30,000, then \$3,000. He also said a \$20,000 Rolex was left in an in-room vault at the hotel.



Parrot's oratory stuns scientists

By Alex Kirby

BBC News Online environment correspondent

The finding of a parrot with an almost unparalleled power to communicate with people has brought scientists up short.

The bird, a captive African grey called N'kisi, has a vocabulary of 950 words, and shows signs of a sense of humour.

He invents his own words and phrases if he is confronted with novel ideas with which his existing repertoire cannot cope - just as a human child would do.

N'kisi's remarkable abilities, which are said to include telepathy, feature in the latest BBC Wildlife Magazine.

N'kisi is believed to be one of the most advanced users of human language in the animal world.

About 100 words are needed for half of all reading in English, so if N'kisi could read he would be able to cope with a wide range of material.

Polished wordsmith

He uses words in context, with past, present and future

tenses, and is often inventive.

One N'kisi-ism was "flied" for "flew", and another "pretty smell medicine" to describe the aromatherapy oils used by his owner, an artist based in New York.

When he first met Dr Jane Goodall, the renowned chimpanzee expert, after seeing her in a picture with apes, N'kisi said: "Got a chimp?"

He appears to fancy himself as a humourist. When another parrot hung upside down from its perch, he commented: "You

got to put this bird on the camera."

Dr Goodall says N'kisi's verbal fireworks are an "outstanding example of interspecies communication".

In an experiment, the bird and his owner were put in separate rooms and filmed as the artist opened random envelopes containing picture cards.

Analysis showed the parrot had used appropriate keywords three times more often than would be likely by chance.

Captives' frustrations



This was despite the researchers discounting responses like "What ya doing on the phone?" when N'kisi saw a card of a man with a telephone, and "Can I give you a hug?" with one of a couple embracing.

Professor Donald Broom, of the University of Cambridge's School of Veterinary Medicine, said: "The more we look at the cognitive abilities of animals, the more advanced they appear, and the biggest leap of all has been with parrots."

Alison Hales, of the World Parrot Trust, told BBC News Online: "N'kisi's amazing vocabulary and sense of humour should make everyone who has a pet parrot consider whether they are meeting its needs.

"They may not be able to ask directly, but parrots are long-lived, and a bit of research now could mean an improved quality of life for years."

All images courtesy and copyright of Grace Roselli.





*Pfc. Fernando Angueira
of C co. 2-22 Infantry, herds
sheep for inoculation
during a MED-CAP mission
near the city of Kandahar,
Afghanistan*

*Photo by Spc. Zia Ul Haq
211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment*

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